



# *Guardian*

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## Photo of the Month

Layout & Design by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Krahmer



Soldiers from Task Force Houston, Company D, participate in a combined live fire exercise at Falcon 4 range on Oct. 11.

# Guardian

is produced for personnel of KFOR Multi-National Task Force (East)

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Kenneth O. Preston returns  
to Bondsteel. Find out what  
he had to say on pg. 7

**on the Covers**

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY SPC. DANIEL J. NICHOLS - Staff Sgt. Joe Gonzales, TF MedFalcon participates in the Expert Field Medical Badge litter obstacle course to evacuate a casualty as part of EFMB testing on Sept 7 read the story on page 14.

BACK COVER PHOTO BY SPC. GENE DuBIELAK - Spc. Isaac Segundo, Co. B., TF Houston, San Antonio, Texas fires the German MG-3 for record during the Schutzenschnur held in Prizren/ Prizren. The German qualification range which allows American Soldiers to earn the German marksmanship badge was hosted by the 3rd Maneuver Battalion of MNTF(S) on Sept. 8, see Schutzenschnur on page 20.





Photo, Layout & Design  
by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, MNTF(E), observes the Soldiers of the Bondsteel United soccer team take on local soccer team Kacanik/Kacanik as part of a Sept. 11 remembrance activity held to commemorate the fifth year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorists attacks.

column

The Hollywood image of a cowboy is that of a loner. In reality, a cowboy was almost always part of a larger team known as an outfit. Working cattle is too much for one cowboy to handle. Every man in a cattle outfit had a job to do. To be an A-1 Top Hand in an outfit meant that the cowboy knew and could do everything that needed to be done to accomplish the tasks set before them. The Top Hand would always lead the herd. The most junior cowboy would have to ride trail, meaning behind the herd – in the dust. Other cowboys would ride flank or scout ahead. An older man or cowboy who was too injured to ride horseback would cook and handle the chuck wagon. The trail boss was in charge of the outfit. He decided which man was right for which job.

Cowboys had to make similar choices. They didn't have just one horse to ride – they often had five or six. The outfit's horses (a 10-man outfit might have more than sixty) were kept in a herd, called a remuda, managed by the wrangler. So, just as the trail boss needed cowboys with the right skills, the cowboy needed horses with the right skills. The fastest, most confident horse was used for night herding when the chance of a stampede was greatest. The horse with the easiest gait was best for long distance daylight riding. The smartest horse would be the "cutting horse" and good for separating individual cattle from the herd.

A trail boss without skilled cowboys, or a cowboy without a string of reliable, skilled remounts, would be no good for a big job like a trail drive.

We are in a similar situation back home today. Our military forces are involved in several large-scale operations. Each one of these operations, from deployments overseas, to homeland defense, to hurricane duty, needs leaders with good Soldiers at their command and Soldiers with the right skills and experience.

This is exactly what we are bringing back from this deployment. You are more experienced soldiers now and you are some of the best trained Soldiers in the world for homeland defense missions. If in the future, you are called up to serve your state in time of natural disaster or terrorist attack, you will be ready. You can patrol the streets, cooperate with local authorities, treat injuries, ensure law and order or deliver supplies quickly to where they are needed most. You have learned and practiced skills here that will be needed by our families and friends back home.

Our families, employers, and our home units have gone for more than a year without us. This time has given us the chance, as the trail bosses used to say, to "make a good hand". You have proven that you are "A-1 Top Hands". I could not be more proud of you.

"Lone Star"

# CSM'S CORNER

Layout & Design by  
Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Photo by: William Blanton Smith, TF Falcon



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Boyer, command sergeant major, MNTF(E), North Richland Hills, Texas, left center and Command Sgt. Maj. Braun, command sergeant major, COMKFOR, left, meet with two command sergeants major of the Kosovo Protection Corps on Oct. 10, to the responsibilities of being an effective sergeant major.

**A**s we move thru the month of October we begin to bring closure to many of our ongoing events. Our Army schools effort is winding down, and what a huge success that has been. Literally, hundreds of Soldiers have benefited from the school opportunities that were available here, in Germany and the U.S. The G-3 training is continuing to work with Training proponents to get Soldiers into needed schools following demobilization.

Other programs such as R&R, FMPP, and the Greece retreat are coming to an end. The main focus now shifts to accounting for and packing equipment, and preparing to begin the Relief in Place process with the right/left seat ride with KFOR 8. These last two months will be a whirlwind of activity. I would like to remind you not to fall into the "horse heading for the barn mentality."

It is more important now than at any point in our rotation to stay focused on the task at hand. We are all thinking about home, we can finally see light at the end but now is not the time to get complacent. No one wants to be the last person to be injured in our rotation. I hope that by now, that injury has already occurred and there will be no more for us.

We are all facing a myriad of tasks from completing award recommendations, NCOERs, EPS documentation, buying gifts for friends, co-workers and local folks that we have developed close working relationships with. There is a lot to do and not a lot of time to do it. I want to thank you all for the job that you do. Let's keep each other safe through these final weeks.

**Soldier On!**

**CSM Boyer**

Q&A



# SGT. MAJ. OF THE ARMY

Addresses some hot topics on his second visit to talk with KFOR 7 Soldiers Sept. 19.

SGT. MAJ. KENNETH O. PRESTON

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak



Q: Are there current plans for regulating deployment rotations so that Soldiers will not be deployed as frequently? Are there any plans to shorten to six or nine month rotations?

A: There is no plan right now to specify a timeline to reduce deployments to something less. The challenge we have right now is we have about forty percent of the operational Army that is deployed all over the world.

Today about two hundred and fifty-three thousand Soldiers are deployed to one hundred and twenty countries around the world. The challenge is when have that many Soldiers deployed for a year and the following year you bring another forty percent. When it comes time for the third rotation you have part of the first rotation you have to bring back again.

That's why we have some units out there that only have eleven or twelve months dwell time between one year deployments. So you can imagine what it would be if the deployments were less than that. The amount of dwell time that Soldiers would get to spend with their families would be far less with the amount of training time it takes to train and prepare a unit for combat operations.

I think that what we watch real close is the successes and the progress that is being made right now in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those security forces over there they are the ones that are going to replace the Soldiers on the ground. That is what is going to allow us to work ourselves out of a job and begin to scale down the number of units over there. As the number of Soldiers that are deployed become smaller than we can start looking at going to shorter rotations.

Q: The Army is undergoing its largest transformation since WWII. How are the transformed BCT's doing and how many are left to be transformed?

A: They are doing real well. We are up to about thirty-seven or thirty-eight manned and equipped brigade combat teams. Our goal is to get to forty brigade combat teams. That is a nine brigade increase of where we were two and half years ago.

Go back to January 2004. We only had thirty BCTs in the active duty Army. As we take the divisions through transformation we are growing an additional BCT in each of those divisions.

In some cases like in the Tenth Mountain Division they only had two brigades to start with. We have added two BCTs to that division. Now they have three BCTs at Fort Drum.

We moved 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade to Fort Polk, and 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR to Fort Lewis to become the 4<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade. So a lot of moving pieces have taken place over last two and a half years and were continuing to build. We are not going to be able to transform some units and make them completely modular brigades

.....Read more SMA's Q&A on pg. 30

## Stage 8 - "Maximize Your Efforts"

How often have you heard (or said) it, "I am working out 5 times a week, 1-2 hours a day and I am not seeing any improvements"? It happens to the best of us. You can exercise and work out 7 days a week 24 hours a day (not that you would want to), but if you are not taking the correct approach you could be just wasting your time. It's like running on a treadmill expecting to go from Bondsteel to Prishtine/Prishtina; the point is you are putting in the miles, but not going anywhere.

The human body is considered to be the most efficient machine ever built. It adapts constantly to work loads and the stresses of everyday life. The same goes for exercise. If you lift 100lbs the same way every day, in the beginning you will improve. Over time your body will adapt so this becomes routine and you no longer make any gains. While you think this would apply to weight lifting and not aerobic activity, think again. How many people run 5 miles a day every day and think they are in great shape, then walk up the stairs to the North Town DFAC and still feel winded? Granted they are probably in shape, but could they be in better shape? I know a lot of questions, what are the answers? Well, pay attention. This article is going to shed some light and hopefully kick start your life to better fitness levels than ever before. You will be surprised how simple the answers actually are.

A few articles back you were introduced to the FITT factors (Frequency, Intensity, Time and Type). Well I am going to borrow from that but only focus on two of the four which is Intensity and Type. What is Intensity? My definition of intensity is the person who throws on his blinders and headphones and only sees his or her next set. It is complete focus and drive. What should a person focus on? Getting to the gym for one, correct form for another and knowing what you want to achieve before you get there. The "no pain no gain" saying applies here. If you are not struggling to an extent to complete your routine and you are not somewhat sore and stiff the next day you are not intense enough, and could be wasting your time.

However, no matter how intense you are, if you are doing the same thing over and over you are wasting your efforts as well. Everyone's body adjusts to training at different rates, but a good rule of thumb is to change your routine every 4-6 weeks. Not only will it keep you going back to the gym because you will avoid the monotony of doing the same thing over and over, it will fool your body into adapting to account for the new conditions you are forcing it to contend with. So with that here are a few ideas to kick start your training and the new and improved you. Below is a sample workout to kick start your training. Do this for 4-6 weeks and then look to develop a new program. Add exercises. Increase running times. The key is to keep your body guessing and to keep sweating.

Remember, as always. Stay Fit to Fight!

Fit 2 Fight Columnist Staff Sgt. Michael Bennett, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Army Physical Fitness Test, Task Force Falcon.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Krahmer

Exercise			
Monday			
Legs	Leg Press	4	10-12
	Leg Extensions	3	10-12
	Leg Curls	3	10-12
	Seated Calf		
Abs	Raises	4	12-15
	Crunches	2	20-25
	Leg Raises	2	20-25
	Oblique Crunches	2	20-25
Jog (20-25 minutes)			
Tuesday			
Chest	Incline Dumbbell Press	4	10-12
	Flat Barbell Bench Press	4	10-12
	Dumbbell Fly's	4	10-12
	Push Ups	3	20-25
	Straight Bar Curls	4	10-12
	Hammer Curls	3	10-12
	Concentration Curls	4	12-15
	Intervals (Sprint 1 min. Jog 2 min)	6	
Wednesday			
	Seated Military Press	4	8-10
	Dumbbell Side Lateral Raises	4	10-12
	Upright Rows	4	10-12
	Lying French Press	4	8-10
	Bar Dips	4	10-12
	Cable Pressdowns	3	10-12
	Walk at a Steep Incline (30 Min)		
Friday			
Back	Pulldowns	4	10-12
	Low Rows	4	10-12
	Bent Over Barbell Rows	4	10-12
	Dead Lifts	3	8-10
Abs	Sit Ups	3	20-25
	Flutter Kicks (4 count)	3	20-25
	Intervals (Sprint 1 min. Jog 2 min)	7	
Saturday			
	Jog (30-35 minutes)		





# STATE OF THE STATUS

## Negotiations Continue

Column by: Capt. Rachel Ramos

**N**egotiations over the technical aspects of Final Status continued in Vienna, Austria during the August and September time frame. Meetings took place that included discussions on decentralization of Kosovo-Serbian enclaves into Serbian dominated municipalities, protection of cultural sites and minority community rights.

The August 7 and 8 meeting over minority community rights was particularly concerning prior to the meeting. While no agreements have been made during the negotiation process, the fact that they continue to talk is encouraging. While there was some initial concern that a boycott by Serbia would take place, this did not happen.

The 7 and 8 Sept. round of talks were focused on decentralization, cultural heritage and community rights, which was chaired by UN Secretary Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, and Deputy Special Envoy Albert Rohan.

Although this round was characterized as "extremely constructive and subject oriented," it was also stated that not much progress had been achieved and they were unable to talk about a breakthrough despite good and constructive talks.

It was concluded that some items needed a lot of work. "Items like the representation of communities in municipal assemblies, in court, in Government, the question of the use of language and the "vital interest" mechanism, which should prevent those communities which are in a minority position to be outvoted by the majority," stated in the press release given by Deputy Special Envoy, Albert Rohan.

The United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo (UNOSEK) work closely in these matters with the six nations designated by the UN to steer International Policy in the Western Balkans, known as the "Contact Group."

The Contact Group is made up of France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The next round of talks which occurred on Sept. 15, Belgrade and Prishtine/Prishtina revisited the new municipalities issue. Belgrade proposed 12 new municipalities with Serb majority besides the five existing municipalities while Prishtine/Prishtina has only agreed to five new municipalities.

Again no agreement between the two parties has been concluded. During the month of Sept. several

Photo by: Staff Sgt. Brandon Krahmer



"State of the Status" columnist Capt. Rachel Ramos, Task Force Falcon.

requests of the two parties to be more flexible were made.

Also during Sept., the Government Ministers urged the provisional institutions of self government in Kosovo to accelerate their efforts to implement UN endorsed standards. The 2002 outlined standards by the United Nations include, functioning democratic institutions, rule of law, freedom of movement, refugee return, economic progress, respect for property rights, dialogue with Belgrade, and a properly constituted Kosovo Protection Corps with minority participation.

Although the Contact Group has reaffirmed its commitment to obtaining a negotiated settlement by the end of 2006, some stumbling blocks may prove it difficult. As of Oct. 1, no new meetings between the two sides are planned as Mr. Ahtisaari states that he will not invite Belgrade and Prishtine/Prishtina to Vienna until he notices clear signs that the negotiators are ready for further compromise.



# STAND ALONE

Photo by: Spc. Daniel J. Nichols



New Kosovo Forces Commander Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, commander, COM KFOR receives the KFOR flag during the change of command ceremony held in Pristine/Pristina Sept. 1.

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak

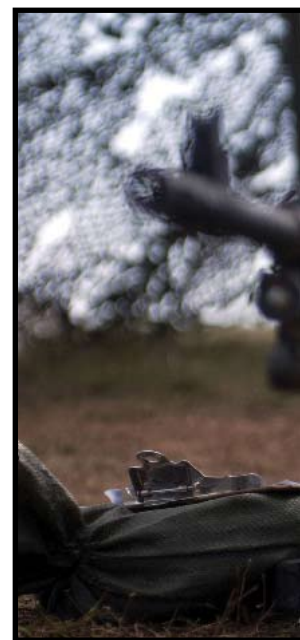


Spc. Ignacio Devega, HHC, TF Houston, of Houston, Texas gives his best poker face as he tries to read his opponents in a game of Texas Hold'em at Forward Operating Base Monteith during TF Houston's organizational day.

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak



Staff Sgt. Rodney Glass, combat life saver instructor, TF Med Falcon prepares members of the Kamenica/Kamenice fire brigade, Kosovo Police Service, and police officers from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo for an upcoming mass casualty exercise between the Gnjilane/Gjilan and Kamenica/Kamenice municipalities at the Kamenica/Kamenice fire house on Sept. 18.



Expert Infantry Badge instructor verifies a candidate's readiness.



# PHOTOS

Photo by: Spc. Daniel J. Nichols



Capt. Michelle Swedlow, planner, G-6, TF Falcon and Staff Sgt. Rod Kelsey, G-6 help desk NCOIC pin sergeant's stripes on Sgt. Eric Adam, G-6 automations, TF Falcon, on Sept. 29.

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak



Texans quarterback Carter McFadden, Austin, Texas fights the elements as well as Bandits defender Chris Albarado, Clute, Texas while trying to complete a pass during the rivalry flag football game between the two Task Force Houston teams. The elements made handling the ball difficult leading to a lopsided 32-14 score in the Bandits favor.

Photo by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Center, Chief Warrant Officer 2 David O'Shell, Task Force Talon, York, Pa., gets baptized near Philippi, Greece on Oct. 4 by Chaplain Ronald Skufca, left, and Chaplain Bruce Postma during the Oct. 2-5 KFOR7 Greece retreat.

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak



tor/Grader Spc. Brian Gonzales, Corpus Christi, Co. A, TF Houston on the range card lane during EIB testing on Oct. 4.

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October 2006

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11

# Having a BLAST

666TH EOD COMPANY HAS A  
WICKED TIME DESTROYING  
DANGEROUS UXOS

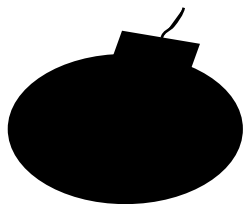


Photo by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



The 666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, TF Falcon, MNTF (E) gets an early start on making Kosovo a safer place by unloading a truck full of unexploded ordnance they plan to permanently dispose of by blowing them up as part of a controlled explosion on EOD hill Sept. 1. Staff Sgt. Michael Lindenberger, 666th EOD, Birmingham, Alabama watches as his colleagues choose what needs to be offloaded after they decided what they wanted to blow up. Other KFOR EOD personnel including German and Austrian EOD were present to assist and observe.

Photos by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé



Capt. Keith Terry, commander, 666th EOD, Florence, Alabama peels off the adhesive end of a stick of M112 charged demolitions explosive before placing it on a pile of UXOs.



After unloading and compiling thousands of UXOs including grenades, rockets, mines, mortars and munitions Staff Sgt. Harold Jones, 666th EOD, Kinston, North Carolina and Sgt. Michael McElyea, 666th EOD, Huntsville, Alabama, ensure that enough charged demolitions explosive is used to destroy all the UXOs in place without using too much.

Photos by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Staff Sgt. Eric Lautenschlager, team leader, 666th EOD, Albany, New York uses his arm length to measure the detonation cord used to charge the demolitions explosives placed on the UXO pile. He then assembles the charging mechanism that is placed into a piece of charged demolitions explosive so it can be detonated.



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Brandon Krahmer

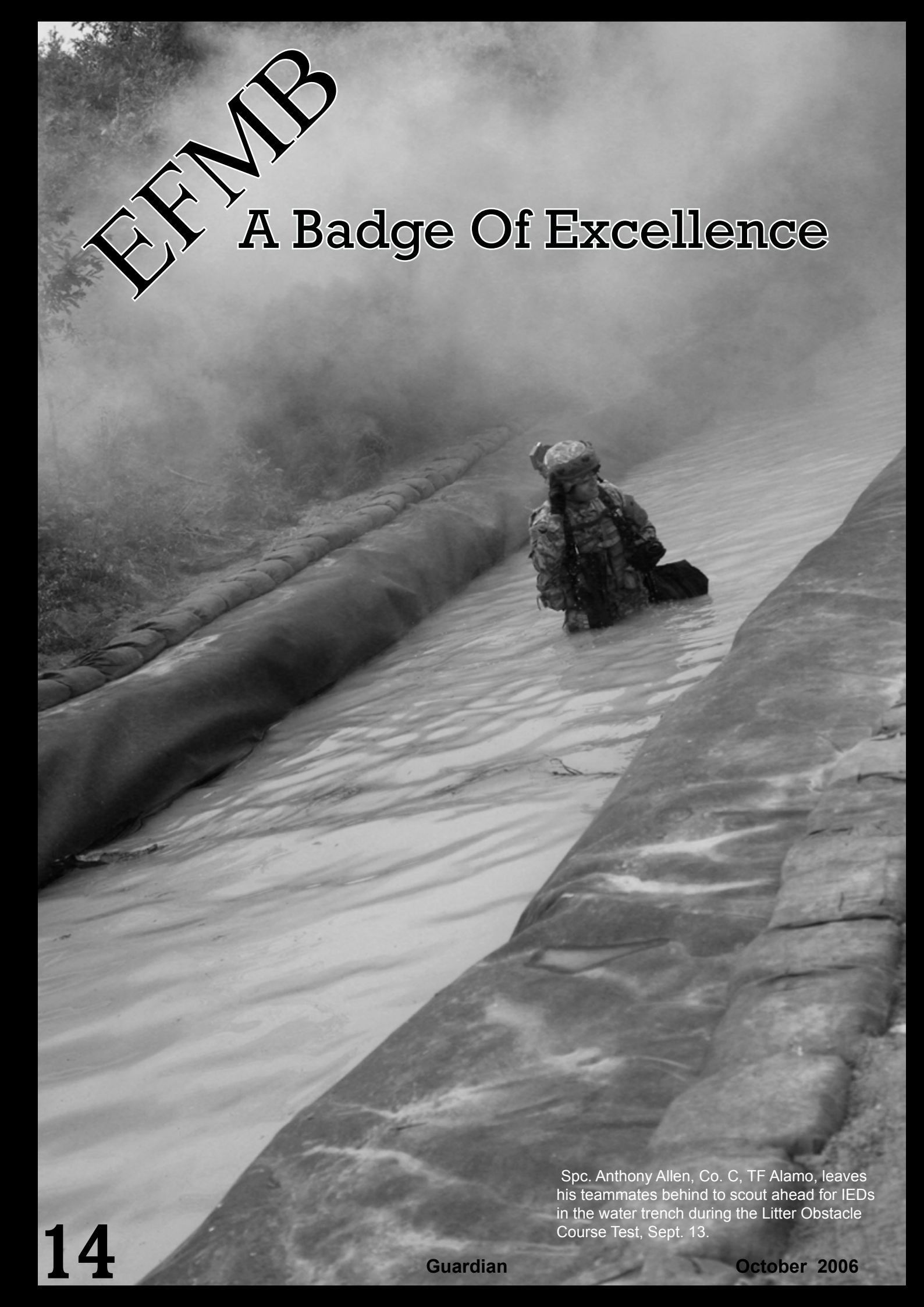
Photos by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé



After moving a safe distance away from the blast area, Jones and McElyea do their final equipment checks before calling Camp Bondsteel's Tactical Operations Center for the green light. Jones and Sgt. Thomas Hamer, 666th EOD, Braketon, Florida begin the countdown to detonation.



With this successful controlled explosion EOD rids Kosovo of thousands of dangerous UXOs.



# EFMB

## A Badge Of Excellence

Spc. Anthony Allen, Co. C, TF Alamo, leaves his teammates behind to scout ahead for IEDs in the water trench during the Litter Obstacle Course Test, Sept. 13.





## Calling yourself an expert, makes

Story, Photos, Layout & Design by,  
Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

**T**hroughout the United States Army there are a number of awards and honors that are given to Soldiers as a token of recognition for their skills and achievements. From certificates to medals, the Army has always honored those Soldiers who prove their merit.

One of these marks of honor, one of the hardest to earn, is the Expert Field Medical Badge.

From Sept. 2-15 a total of 25 candidates vied for the honor of having the EFMB pinned to their chest on Camp Bondsteel. The Soldiers went through a week of skill refresher training, and then a second week of grueling tests in the EFMB course.

"During the mobilization at Fort Hood we discovered that we could host the EFMB test here, and began going through an application process to submit the request," Maj. Scott Byers, S-3, TF Med Falcon, said, who was the officer in charge of the EFMB test site. "We briefed the command (later on), gave them the concept for it, and they were very

supportive," he said.

The EFMB Test consists of various tasks pulled from skills that Soldiers in the medical field are expected to have. These included medical evacuation, casualty evaluation, common skill tasks, litter carries – complete with an obstacle course – Nuclear, Biological, Chemical weapons procedures and more.

**"The EFMB has the highest failure rate out of any Army badge," Sgt. Juan Trevino, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Alamo, said.**

According to the EFMB Task List, a total of 54 tasks had to be completed for candidates to pass the course.

"If you were to go to Fort Hood, or Fort Sam (Houston), they would be grading to the same standards we have here," Byers said. "The atmosphere, and personality of the cadre might be a little different, but the standards are the same," he said.

The one thing that most people agree on, is that the standards for the EFMB test

make it the most difficult expert Army badge to receive.

The EFMB has an average pass rate of 14 percent, said Byers.

The candidates believe this pass rate is low for a couple of reasons.

"The EFMB has the highest failure rate out of any Army badge," Sgt. Juan Trevino, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Alamo, said.

"It's all stuff that we do know, or should know how to do," Staff Sgt. Michael Mendez,

TF Houston said. "But they put you into a scenario and expect you to do things by the number."

"You don't have a lot of time to think," Trevino said, "you just do it, and that's how a lot of the lanes are."

After a week of training, the testing began with a written exam that eliminated 17 of the 25 candidates.

"The level of detail the test went into was what really made it difficult," 1st Lt. David Bennett, TF Houston, said. "But if you're calling yourself an expert you have to live up to

...see EFMB pg 29

# UNFORGETTABLE

## MNTF(E) commemorates September 11th with the citizens of Kacanik

Story by: Maj. Paul Pecena

Photos by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Layout & Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé



Spc. Jarrod Gutierrez, MNTF(E), Task Force Alamo, of the Bondsteel United soccer team prepares to pass the ball to one of his teammates down field during the first half of a 90 minute exhibition match against Kacanik. After leading 2 - 0 in the first half, Kacanik stepped up their intensity after half - time and went on to win 3 - 2. After the game opposing players shook hands and chatted briefly before heading to the Kacanik Municipality building to view the September 11, memorial service held there.

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, began on a light note in the city of Kacanik/ Kacanik with a hard-charging soccer game between U.S. Soldiers of the “Bondsteel United” soccer team and a local team. The Kacanik/ Kacanik team was cheered on to victory by citizens lining the hillside to watch the game.

Later in the evening, the mood turned somber with the lighting of two tall candles on a table as part of a September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial service for the nearly 3,000 people killed by terrorist attack five years ago in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

The commander of Multi-National Task Force (East), Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, and the Kacanik Municipality President, Xhelal Gashi, both spoke to an audience of more than two hundred local citizens assembled in the evening warmth in front of the municipal Culture, Youth and Sports building north of downtown.

Mr. Gashi, standing at a podium in front of a large banner with the date “September 11<sup>th</sup>” written in Albanian, said Albanians support America in the Global War on Terror.

Owens spoke next about the meaning of liberty and justice.

“One of the foundations of America is described in our Pledge of Allegiance to the flag: “with liberty and justice for all,” he said. Ensuring the liberty and equal treatment of all citizens is a difficult task, but we must still strive to move past old grievances and make our daily conduct worthy of this pledge”, Owens said. “In this way, with action and not words, we honor the dead.”

The evening concluded with a concert by local rock band “Proka” and the Camp Bondsteel House Band.





Kacanik rock band 'Proka' warms up the crowd with their opening act. More than 200 people were present for the ceremony including KFOR Soldiers, local media, and residents of the Kacanik/Kacanik municipality. Brig. Gen. Darren Owens enjoys his front row seat.



Members of "Bondsteel United" Lt. Col. Mario Alayon (l), safety officer, TF Falcon, Staff Sgt. Eric Salisbury (c), motor sergeant, TF Falcon, Dawson, Texas, and Sgt. Nana Atkins (r), patient administrations, TF Med Falcon, Silver Spring, Maryland show their support for the evening's entertainment applauding the performances of 'Proka' and the Bondsteel House Band.



# *Straight from the heart...*

Story, Photos, Layout & Design  
by Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

## Kosovar child flown to the US for medical treatment



Left to Right: Maj. William Roland, TF MedFalcon S-5, MNTF(E) waits in the Prishtine/Pristina airport passenger terminal with Anvi, Leonita (baby), and Naile Drugzani prior to Naile and Leonita departing for the United States.

The cold and rainy morning of Oct. 8 was the start of a great day for Avni and Naile Drugzani. They waited for the boarding call for Austrian Airlines flight 770 at the Prishtine/Pristina airport. For the young couple it could possibly be the most beautiful day they have seen since the birth of their daughter Leonita nearly 20 months ago.

A look of excitement doubled as sheer anticipation covered the faces of the Drugzanis as they watched passengers of an earlier flight say their goodbyes before entering the passenger terminal. Meanwhile, Leonita was carefree and energetic as she observed her new surroundings.

Leonita is still too young to understand why she and her family are waiting in an airport lobby and she will have little recollection of the day's events or the months that will follow. Upon boarding the plane, she will have a new lease on life.

"Sometimes I feel like we should do more and it really lifted me up to be able to help this child," Roland said.

Her mother Naile will surely never forget this day or the events leading up to this moment. After receiving her bundle of joy one month before she turned 25, in Urosevac/Ferizaj on April 19, 2005, Naile and her husband were later overcome with the horrifying news that their baby girl was born

with a serious problem.

Leonita was diagnosed with a severe congenital heart disease known as Tetralogy of Fallot, it prevents her blood from getting adequate

oxygen, Maj. William Roland, North Braddock, PA, operating room nurse and S-5, Task Force Med Falcon, said. The condition is so bad that at times the child would turn blue.

After several trips to the Prishtine/Pristina hospital from Sllatine/Slatina, a small village in the Viti/Vitina municipality and being told that nothing could be done for Leonita here in Kosovo. The Drugzanis were forced to search for a new



alternative to get her the help she needed.

"The prognosis for the child wasn't very good and something needed to be done," Roland said.

This dilemma led the father to take quite a gamble. In July, Anvi went to nearby Camp Bondsteel to request assistance, bearing a letter describing Leonita's condition.

He was turned away from the gates. Anvi was unaware that despite a few rare exceptions and regular medical civilian assistance programs conducted by TF Med Falcon, Kosovo Force is unable to provide medical care for local citizens.

Although many KFOR Soldiers have helped facilitate medical assistance for local nationals, most funding comes from various non governmental organizations.

"We are a forward deployed medical task force. We aren't funded to care for most civilians," Lt. Col. Douglas Lawson, executive officer, TF Med Falcon, Washington, Pa., said. "We have medical rules of engagement that state who we can and can not treat."

"I've met a lot of sick people here," Roland said. "It kind of hurts not to be able to help everyone who needs it, but it just isn't possible."

For a condition this serious, had Leonita been a KFOR Soldier, she still would have needed to receive medical treatment elsewhere.

"It is a very rare disorder and we don't have the equipment or surgical knowledge," Lawson said.

With a number of factors including time working against him 'as fate would have it' Anvi's letter soon found its way into the hands of Roland, a nurse in his civilian life, who took immediate action by contacting hospitals in his home state.

"I work for Alleghany General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," Roland said. "After reading the father's letter I e-mailed local hospitals in the Pittsburgh area. Alleghany General Hospital responded to my e-mail in two days saying they would like to participate in the child's healthcare."

"I used a whole two hundred minute phone card to call Alleghany General Hospital and other facilities to try to get the process finalized," Roland said.

Alleghany General Hospital agreed to provide the preliminary work-up for Leonita as well as re-diagnosing her before sending her to Morgantown, West Virginia for surgery at the West Virginia University Children's Hospital, Roland said.

"It shouldn't take long to determine whether or not the surgery is needed," Roland said.

Interpreter support and room and board will be provided for Naile and Leonita by a local college campus that will also provide transport to and from appointments, Roland said.

Alleghany also provided funding through

donations to get Leonita and her mother to Pittsburgh and back to Kosovo. They are scheduled to return to Kosovo on January 4, 2007, Roland said.

"The most difficult part of the process was getting them visas," Roland said.

Staff Sgt. Edward Vowell, 353<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs unit took the lead role in contacting the U.S. Embassy and acquiring the visas needed for the trip, Roland said.

"Without the visas it wouldn't have been possible," Roland said.

"I'll be able to see them when I get back to Pittsburgh," Roland said.

Anvi, knowing he would not see his family for quite some time, held Leonita tight with his wife close by his side as the final boarding call for flight 770 echoed over the loud speakers. After kissing his family goodbye Anvi waved to his wife and daughter as they walked through the security checkpoint before boarding the plane.

"I feel very lonely now but I know it is all for the best," Anvi said "I'm very happy that my child will be receiving the treatment she needs in the U.S. I would like to thank the Soldiers of KFOR for facilitating this process."

"Sometimes I feel like we should do more and it really lifted me up to be able to help this child," Roland said. "It makes me and the Soldiers of Med Falcon feel good."

"I'm very proud that Alleghany General stepped up where other hospitals didn't," Roland said. "I've never met the other individuals involved but I plan on meeting them when I return home."

"They tell us that we're heroes for wearing the uniform," Roland said. "I believe they're heroes for helping. I'm happy to know things are happening and I know Alleghany General Hospital, West Virginia University Children's Hospital Task Force MedFalcon, and the 353<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs unit, did a great thing."

All involved from Kosovo would like to thank Dr. Mary Goessler, Mr. Drew Keys, and Mr. Tim Williams from Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh and Dr. Robert A. Gustafson from West Virginia University Children's Hospital in Morgantown, WV for the great things they are doing for Leonita.



Anvi keeps his daughter Leonita occupied while waiting on her flight

# SCHUTZENSNUR

MNTF (E) takes a trip out of sector to get familiar with German weapons

Story, Layout & Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

Photo by: Spc. Gene DuBielak



Spc. Loretta Yeverino, armor, TF Falcon, Houston, Texas attempts to fire two rounds each in three 25-meter target with the Heckler & Koch pistol to qualify for the Schutzenschnur medal.

**S**oldiers from both Task Force Falcon and Houston were given the chance to travel out of sector to visit Multi-National Task Force (South) and participate in the Schnutzenschnur, the German Army's weapons qualification range near the city of Prizren/ Prizren on September 8.

These eager Soldiers had the opportunity to be awarded one of three qualification medals; bronze, silver, or gold depending on their shooting performance on weapons they were not so familiar with.

The first event and probably the most difficult for the Soldiers was the rather large G-3 machine gun. Soldiers were given 15 rounds to engage a target that resembled farmland covered with 12 numbered 10cm circles, with 4cm circles within them. After choosing 3 targets, Soldiers were given the green light to lock and load. In order to qualify gold they needed at least four hits in the small circles and at least 8 in the larger circles.

After the machine gun Soldiers moved on to the pistol range. This event seemed to be much easier than the machine gun. All firers performed very well. Soldiers were given a 9 mm Heckler & Koch pistol, which are much lighter than the Beretta and told to engage three 25 meter targets. To qualify gold Soldiers needed two rounds in each target.

After completing the range the Soldiers scores were tallied and they were presented certificates along with their respective medals. For enlisted Soldiers the medal is approved for wear on the Class A uniform. During the scoring process the lowest score the Soldier received determined the medal they were given. At the Schutzenschnur gold plus bronze equals bronze.



# N O W

## TF Talon raffle raises \$20,000 to help Binac/Bince school with much needed repairs

Story by: Spc. Gene DuBielak

Layout & Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé



Students of the Binac/Bince school take a break from their studies on Oct. 3. Photo by: Sgt. Tomy Pickford, HHC TF Talon.

# THAT'S THE TICKET!

The conditions of the school in Binac / Bince were brought to the attention of TF Talon S-5, Sgt. Heather Littlefield. The building used as the school is actually an addition for the faculty built by an Italian non-governmental organization. When the addition was first constructed the builders installed full restroom facilities but failed to connect them to any plumbing.

This left the students and faculty of the school with only the outhouse beside the school. Having found the school and realizing something needed to be done TF Talon Soldiers started raising money to fund the project.

The fundraising fell to a number of Soldiers within the task force. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joe "The Godfather" Luciano, TF Talon took charge and called upon his fellow pilots to help. Luciano was able to solicit a \$100 donation from all the pilots in the task force.

The lion's share of the money however was raised by Spc. Darko Martinovski. "Martinovski was the driving force between the fundraising and the project," Littlefield said.

Martinovski also had personal motivation to improve the community. His mother is a Kosovar Albanian and his father is from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

"The local community accepted him as one of their own," said Littlefield.

Martinovski raised money initially through a series of weekly barbecues. While the barbecues raised money it became apparent that more money was needed to install the

"The community was proactive about improving themselves. There is no lack of desire or labor, just a lack of money," Littlefield said.

plumbing, water tank, and septic field to provide the Binac / Bince students and facilities they so desperately needed.

Martinovski had an idea. TF Talon Soldiers arranged to purchase a 2006 Harley Davidson Sportster motorcycle at cost. The Harley would be raffled off. Tickets were sold for \$10 each, raising a total of \$20,000 dollars.

With the extraordinary fundraising effort complete, the money was put to good use. Local contractors were hired to install everything needed for working bathroom facilities. By hiring local contractors TF Talon Soldiers not only assisted the school but helped provide employment to a weak economy.

The project had other benefits as well. In a town with an even population of Serbians and Albanians "one of the most satisfying things was getting the kids and adults to work together to help overcome any animosity that may exist," Littlefield said.

Additionally Littlefield showed how National Guard Soldiers can use their civilian experience to benefit the Army.

Littlefield, a teacher by profession, taught the Binac / Bince students English. "It was very satisfying getting together with the Serbians and Albanians and learning each others' language," Littlefield said.

"The community was proactive about improving themselves. There is no lack of desire or labor, just a lack of money," Littlefield said. That need was answered with the support of the command, and by the initiative and donations of the TF Talon Soldiers.

Layout & Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

Photo by: Sgt. Leonardo Ruiz, Co. D., TF Houston

Story by: Spc. Gene DuBielak

# ABOVE

## Task Force Houston goes the extra mile to



1st Sgt. Richard Milford, Co. D, Keller, Texas, Task Force Houston shakes hands with a local student as part of the dedication ceremony of the newly constructed soccer field at the Pones / Ponesh school. The Soldiers also handed out sodas and ice cream to the children to celebrate the opening.

The Soldiers of Co. D., TF Houston also took the opportunity to assist the students of a local town. As their company project Co. D. elected to make improvements to the soccer field at Pones / Ponesh school.

Pones / Ponesh was chosen because of its almost equal population of Kosovo Serbs and Albanians. A local contractor was hired to construct the frames for the soccer field's goals. In the meantime the biggest challenge was to level and improve the field as much as possible.

The engineer platoon of Co. B., TF Houston was asked to assist with this task.

"The whole community was involved," Sgt. Leonardo Ruiz, Beaumont, Texas, said. "We had help from both Serbs and Albanians throughout the project."

After two months the field was leveled and the turf was laid. On Aug. 21, the goals and nets were installed and a community ceremony was held to begin play.

The mayor as well as the Delta commander spoke at the ceremony followed by the game. The first game featured Albanian and Serbian teams competing. The next game saw the Delta Soldiers soundly defeated by the Albanians.

Although beaten badly by the local team the Soldiers still walked away with a sense of pride.

"I came back with a sense of satisfaction. We were able to do something that made a visible difference," Ruiz said.

The opportunity to perform services outside of their usual scope left the Soldiers of TF Houston both proud and humbled. "It gives you a feeling of accomplishment. Knowing that you helped kids to get a better education without having to worry about the rain or snow," Sgt. 1st Class Norris Bryant, Houston, Texas, HHC TF Houston, said.



# AND BEYOND

## to improve local schools

Story by: Spc. Gene DuBielak  
Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Loughridge, HHC, TF Houston



1st Lt. Samantha Garcia, S-1, TF Houston, San Antonio, Texas helps apply primer to the walls of Sadri Masini primary school in Gornja Sipanica / Shipashnice e Eperme.

**S**oldiers of Task Forces Houston have shifted to a humanitarian role to assist local residents in the Multi-National Task Force (East) area of operations by helping to improve and refurbish area schools and soccer fields.

In Aug. while visiting the Sadri Misini primary school in Gornja Sipanica / Shipashnice e Eperme, Cpt. Radoslaw Ambroziak, Pol-UKR battalion attached to Liaison Monitoring Team 1, TF Houston, noticed the school's poor conditions and brought it to the attention of TF Houston's civil affairs office. At first, the only small aid was given to improve the state of the school.

Later, the S-5 office (civil affairs) examined the school and they realized that there were many serious but fixable problems. One obvious problem was the ladder leading to the attic surrounded by buckets of water.

When 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Garrett Lewis, assistant S-5, TF Houston inquired about the ladder and buckets, the teachers told to him climb the ladder and see for himself. What he found was beyond belief.

In the attic there was evidence of previous fires showing on the rafters and the inside of the roof. A quick inspection of the area would show the culprit. The heater, an absolute necessity given the Kosovo winter conditions, did not vent through the roof. The duct for the wood burning heater ran through the schoolhouse ceiling and vented directly into the attic.

The ladder and buckets of water were needed to put out the fires that regularly started in the attic.

Something needed to be done. In addition to serving as assistant S-5, Lewis is TF Houston Headquarters and Headquarters company commander. Tapping into the assets at hand, he presented the work as a company project.

HHC Soldiers donated both time and money. The company welcomed the project and quickly set forth to make improvements to school.

While the Soldiers raised money to fund the project, support grew within the area residents and the student themselves. Soldiers and members of the Kosovo Protection Corps worked on the project while the children from the helped by clearing the area of debris and trash.

The list of challenges was long but after visiting the school for three days every week for the next month the changes were evident from the school and its adjoining soccer field to its basketball and volleyball courts.

"Since the majority of the staff does not leave the wire this gave them the opportunity to leave the office and help the community," Lewis said. "As well, we gave the school athletic supplies and a modest library of American children's books."

The improvements included painting, replacing windows, repairing numerous holes in the roof, and properly venting the wood burning heater through the roof. The project benefited the Soldiers while providing a safer and cleaner place for students to learn, Lewis said.

# Training Soldiers to be Leaders

Better equipping MNTF(E)  
Soldiers by conducting  
NCOES schools at Camp  
Bondsteel

*Story, Photo, Layout and Design by,  
Spc. Daniel J. Nichols*

**T**he Warrior Leader  
Course and Basic Non-  
Commissioned Officer  
Course are two Non-Commissioned  
Officer Education System schools  
that Multi-National Task Force  
(East) Soldiers have had the  
opportunity to attend on Camp  
Bondsteel during the KFOR 7  
deployment.

Since early spring, Soldiers from  
every task force and a number  
of different military occupation  
specialties have attended these  
two week courses held at Camp  
Bondsteel.

"I think that WLC is actually  
the most important of the  
NCOES schools," Command Sgt.  
Major Kenneth Boyer, Command  
Sergeant Major, MNTF(E), said  
about the importance of the  
courses, "because it lays the  
foundation for the Soldier's  
leadership training.

We have Soldiers who are ready  
or eligible to be promoted into a  
non-commissioned officer position  
but they often don't have the  
training or the leadership skills to  
execute the duties of that position.

The WLC provides that training. It  
teaches them the basic leadership  
skills," Boyer said.

"For the most part the  
subsequent NCOES schools

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build on that foundation that was  
taught in WLC," Boyer said.

After Soldiers have been  
promoted to the rank of  
Sergeant, the next leadership  
course in their careers is  
BNCOC.

"At WLC you learn to be a  
leader," Staff Sgt. Michael  
Bennett, BNCOC instructor, TF  
Falcon, said. "At BNCOC you're  
increasing your knowledge and  
refining your leadership skills."

Planning for these courses and  
selecting which Soldiers would  
attend took place early in the  
deployment, Boyer said.

"We were informed early on  
of the NCOES opportunities  
available during this

"One of the things that I see  
when a Soldier comes back  
from WLC is that they're  
more professional, more  
knowledgeable, (and) they  
have a better understanding  
of what's required of them  
as an NCO," Boyer said.

deployment," Boyer said.

"The guidance that I gave was  
for the subordinate task forces  
to start making their NCOES plan  
early.

We had to develop a plan based  
on priority of need. Soldiers  
who had been promoted to E-  
5 but hadn't gone to WLC yet  
were considered top priority.  
Next were Soldiers that were  
high on the promotion points list  
that stood a good chance to get  
promoted at some point during  
the deployment. Following those  
were the junior Soldiers who  
might not have been high on the  
promotion points list but met all  
the standards and had shown  
leadership ability," Boyer said.

For the first 5 WLC courses  
conducted at Camp Bondsteel,  
part of the entry requirement  
was to pass the Army Physical



**Fitness Test and meet the body composition requirements. For the last class this standard was removed as an entry requirement.**

**Commanders however, are still required to sign the pre-execution checklist stating that the Soldier meets the standard. Soldiers are also required to meet the standard as a graduation requirement, Boyer said.**

**Soldiers may complete the course but if they do not pass the APFT or “tape out” with the body composition standard they do not receive the DA 1059, the document that certifies graduation from the course.**

**Soldiers have the opportunity to receive their DA 1059 if they return to their units and meet the standards within a specified amount of time.**

**However, the DA 1059 will reflect that the Soldier “Marginally achieved course standards.”**

**“Bottom line- Soldiers who wish to advance their careers need to meet the standard,” Boyer said.**

**Some of the training Soldiers receive at WLC include: leadership skills, training management, map reading, land navigation, drill and ceremony, and war fighting.**

**“One of the things that I see when a Soldier comes back from WLC is**



Staff Sgt. Radames Robles, MP Investigator, TF Falcon, and Sgt. Victor Covarrubias, Tactical Operations Center NCO, Co. D., TF Houston, work together on graphic overlays, Sept. 26, during the BNOC course held at Camp Bondsteel, Sept. 16-28.

**that they’re more professional, more knowledgeable, (and) they have a better understanding of what’s required of them as an NCO,” Boyer said.**

**As of Oct. 7, approximately 450 Soldiers have graduated from WLC or BNOC at Camp Bondsteel.**

# “Quality of life” not affected

Photos by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Story by: Maj. Paul Pecena



Above: Local contract construction workers cut pieces of wood to re-inforce a new site located beside the Camp Bondsteel Fire Department on Oct. 11.

## USAREUR takes over new support contract for CBS



Right: Contract construction workers continue work on their new site on Oct. 11.

**A**lthough Camp Bondsteel services have already changed from the Balkans Support Contract to the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Support Contract, Soldiers of MNTF (E) won't be seeing big changes in the “quality of life” any time soon. This new contract, the result of a two-year comprehensive plan to align contracted services with operational needs, officially took effect Oct. 1.

“USAREUR has declared there will be no service changes for at least 90 days,” Lt. Col. Sean Ryan, G-4, logistics officer, MNTF (E), said. “So we won't see anything until about the first of next year.”

The Soldiers of KFOR-8, scheduled to take responsibility for MNTF (E) in early December, may see some changes at the dining facilities.

“We have many more nice features at our dining facilities than you see in a standard Army dining facility,” Ryan said. “Things like the ice cream bar, large salad bar, and more than two entrée choices. We are going to try to keep all that.”

There are no changes planned in services like the laundry points, concessions, and janitorial services, said Ryan.

“All the facilities will stay open,” Ryan said. “The main changes Soldiers of KFOR-8 might see are in presentation, meaning that there may be one serving line open instead of two in the dining facility, or fewer specialty meal nights like Mongolian barbecue.”

The Soldiers of KFOR-8 might not see a big change in “quality of life” services, but leaders will have to be sure to plan ahead and allow more lead time than before when requesting routine support like setting up tents or maintenance, Ryan said.

The new contract also means that fewer civilian contractors will be required, but there are no definite numbers on how many civilian positions will be closed, said Ryan.

“It isn't right to speculate about the number of civilian positions to be reduced,” Ryan said. “KBR and the contractors will determine how many positions they need to meet the needs of Camp Bondsteel.”

Recent layoffs of translators are a separate contract issue and not related to the USAREUR contract, Ryan said.



Since deploying to Kosovo I have witnessed many amazing acts by the Soldiers of Multi-National Task Force (East). It is obvious that our Soldiers here are very proud to serve their country and truly care about the citizens of Kosovo. The humanitarian efforts of our Soldiers have been incredible. In addition to their regular duties Soldiers of MNTF(E) have adopted and repaired local schools, aided in trash pick up, provided food and clothing for the less fortunate, facilitated medical care through nongovernmental organizations, and a number of other things that would make our family and friends back home proud to be American.

“I know it is impossible to save everyone or create a perfect world, but we can not be oblivious to the needs of those we took an oath to serve.”

Everyday our Soldiers prove through their actions that America is the greatest nation in the world. It is important that we do not forget what it means to be American. With that said as we strive to make the world a better place through our efforts; the same drive and determination must be applied to make America a better place. There are a number of less fortunate families at home in need of food, there are many schools in need of repair along with children who would love to know that someone cares. There are streets lined with garbage, there are thousands of people who will suffer from treatable ailments that will never receive the medical care they need, and more of our countrymen that we can count that would love freedom of movement and wish they lived in a safe and secure environment.

I know it is impossible to save everyone or create a perfect world, but we can not be oblivious to the needs of those we took an oath to serve. I'm sure each of us can think of someone who has it a little worse than we do. Many of us don't have to travel all that far to do so. As each Task Force that makes up MNTF(E) has proven there is always plenty of time to make a difference. As we return home take the time to reflect on the wonderful things you have and be proud. Know there is still plenty of work on the home front that needs be done. If you want to change the world, start with the world around you.

-Spc. J. TaShun Joycé-editor, the Guardian

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## Safety Office's Monthly Message

**Keep our Soldiers safe. Our monthly safety slogan is:**  
***“Be a Leader, follow safe procedures, your accident affects others too.”***

**Driving-**The fall season is upon us, and with the changing weather, driving both on and off road is more dangerous than before. Due to rain and reduced visibility we have seen several tactical accidents. As a leader it is your responsibility to enforce standards. Your actions can modify the driver's risky behavior. When in doubt, stop, ask your 1<sup>st</sup> line supervisor for clarification, then act.

**Redeployment concerns-** Time is getting close to mission complete, and we'll be going back home. Until we leave this theater we must remain vigilant. Don't let your guard down. Continue to do your composite risk management. Your family is counting on us to keep you safe. When loading the connex ensure you wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, use two man lift if a box is too heavy. Before you put down the boxes, ensure your feet and hands are clear of danger.

You have our commitment to keep you safe. We'll see you at the wash rack and connex yard. Remember stress safety in everything we do.

***Lt.Col. Mario M. Alayon***  
***Chief Safety Officer,***  
***Task Force Falcon***



Sgt. Juan Trevino, TF Alamo, Spc. Anthony Allen, Co. C, TF Alamo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chris Montano, TF Alamo, along with the help of two cadre members engage the low crawl obstacle during the litter obstacle course test day, Sept. 13.



Sgt. Christopher Southworth, TF Houston, (middle right) Sgt. Joe Gonzales, TF MedFalcon, (left) Staff Sgt. Michael Mendez, TF Houston, (middle left) and Spc. Daniel Henscheid, TF Med Falcon, (right) work together to overcome the low wall obstacle during the training day for the litter obstacle course, Sept. 7.





**those standards,” he said.**

**The events following the test proved to have their own challenges, most of them involving timed tasks expected to be executed at combat speed.**

**“Today is one of the hardest days,” Trevino said, during the combat evacuation test day. “Between OP-FOR, self-aid, buddy aid, donning your mask in under nine seconds, and you’re going to be in MOPP gear for a while, it’s pretty tough,” he said.**

**“You have to make a plan,” 2nd Lt. Chris Montano, TF Alamo said, “on how you’re going to use your 20 minutes.”**

**Over the next few days of testing three more candidates were eliminated leaving only five out of the original twenty-five to take on the last task required of them: A strenuous 12-mile foot march that led them up and down the hills of Camp Bondsteel.**

**On a foggy Sept. 15, with only a three hour time limit, the candidates marched at high-speeds doing whatever they had to, in order to overcome the final obstacle between them and their EFMB. The path led them behind TF MedFalcon and to the front of the parade field where candidates were met by a crowd of Soldiers present to cheer them on. Some were cadre, others were candidates who had failed**

**out who returned to see their comrades succeed, while others were from the candidates units.**

**Covered in sweat each candidate dropped their gear and accepted a cold bottle of water, trying to regain their strength while accepting congratulations from onlookers.**

**All five of the candidates who began the road march successfully completed it, but none of them did so with ease. Trevino, who was the last Soldier across, made it with only 30 seconds to spare, using every last ounce of strength to complete the test.**

**After the road march was over, the five candidates who remained marched to the front of the parade field to receive their EFMBs.**

**“The badge you’ll be receiving,” Col. Jay Griffin, commander, TF MedFalcon said during the EFMB graduation ceremony, “is a badge of excellence recognized throughout the Army. Those of you who have completed it should be proud, and we are proud of you.”**

*Editor's Note:*

*The five candidates who received the EFMB were Sgt. Juan Trevino, TF Alamo, Spc. Anthony Allen, TF Alamo, 2nd Lt. Chris Montano, TF Alamo, Sgt. Nicholas Dobbs, TF MedFalcon, and Cpt. Timothy O'Donnell, TF Houston.*

BELOW: Sgt. Christopher Southworth, TF Houston, Sgt. Joe Gonzales, TF MedFalcon, Staff Sgt. Michael Mendez, TF Houston, and Spc. Daniel Henscheid, TF Med Falcon, don their gas masks reacting to a simulated NBC attack during the training day for the Litter Obstacle Course, Sept. 7.





Preston gives students attending the Basic Noncommissioned officers course some words of encouragement on Sept. 19. During his one day visit, Preston also visited the Basic Leader course and various sections within each task force.

### Q&A continued from pg. 7

until we get a lot of the units back to the states. There are a lot of units that are overseas right now that will go through complete transformation and modularity once they get back.

**Q:** The Army recently made its recruiting and retention mission for the fiscal year. Additionally the reenlistment window was extended from 18 months to two years. What was the reason behind that decision?

**A:** The reason why we went to that...it was actually a year. It really limited the Soldiers. We did it for a couple of reasons. If you were that Soldier deployed to a combat zone and you had the opportunity and you knew you were going to reenlist but you weren't within that one year window you couldn't do it.

So opening it up to two years the Soldier can take advantage of bonuses and tax free incentives while they're deployed. We want to make sure we take care of Soldiers and to provide whatever is best. Opening it up to a two year aperture really gives a lot more flexibility.

**Q:** Does that apply to reserve component Soldiers as well?

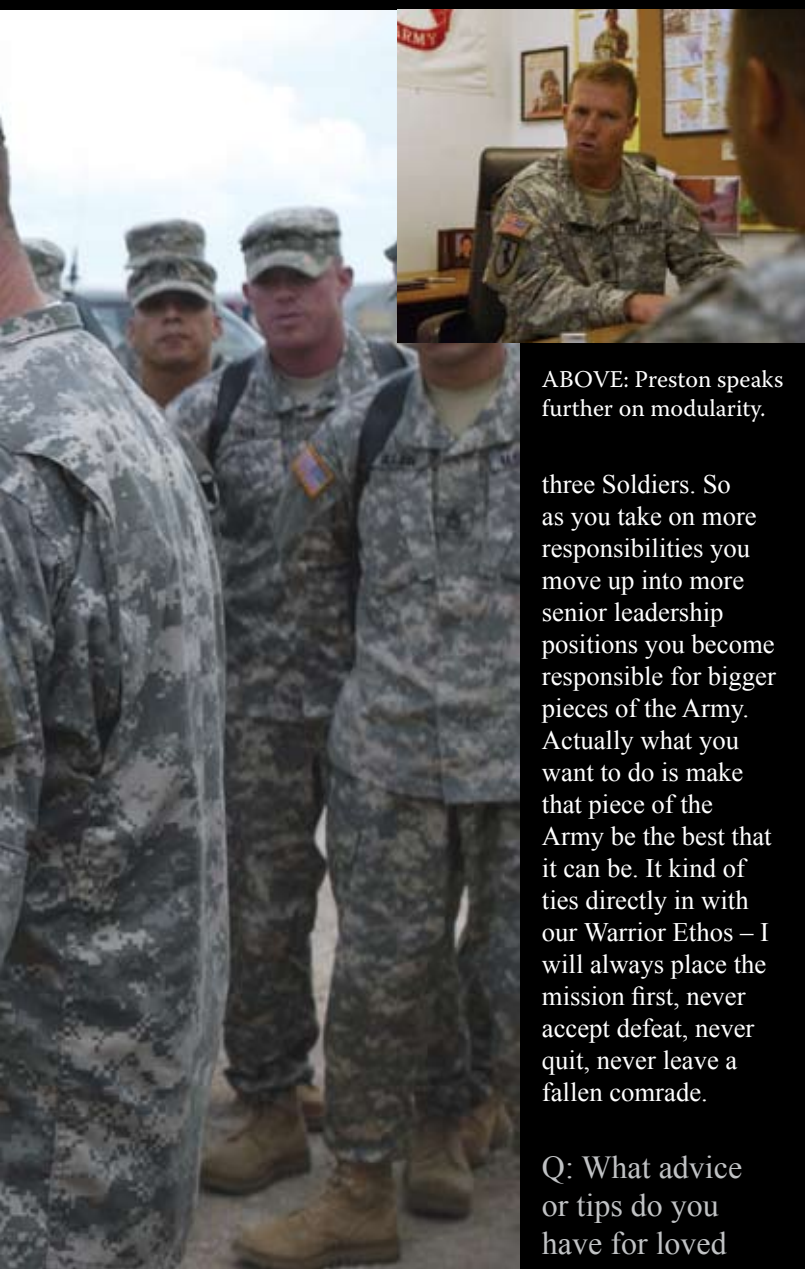
**A:** There is a stipulation in there and I can't recall right now. I think that some of the reserve Soldiers are still limited to one year. I don't think we were able to open it up to a two year aperture for reserve Soldiers. Part of it is the management system. When we combine HRC St. Louis, HRC DA there in the Hoffman building and everything gets consolidated at Knox I just see us being able to fix a lot of the problems associated the active and reserve.

**Q:** What advice would you have for Soldiers who are in their first year of service?

**A:** For all Soldiers coming in I usually get a lot of questions from Soldiers about what do I need to do to be SMA. As I look back over my career I didn't come in the Army thinking that I was going to be SMA. I just came in with the intent of being a good Soldier. From private through specialist you really focus on being the best Soldier that you can be. So learn your career field and learn your profession.

As you become a non commissioned officer as a corporal or sergeant the aperture opens up even further because now you're responsible for more than just yourself. You're responsible for your little piece of the Army, your two or





Photos by: Sgt. Matthew Chlosta (right) & Spc. Gene DuBielak (left)

ABOVE: Preston speaks further on modularity.

three Soldiers. So as you take on more responsibilities you move up into more senior leadership positions you become responsible for bigger pieces of the Army. Actually what you want to do is make that piece of the Army be the best that it can be. It kind of ties directly in with our Warrior Ethos – I will always place the mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, never leave a fallen comrade.

Q: What advice or tips do you have for loved ones back home to help them deal with long Army

deployments? How did your family deal with the frequent deployments?

A: My wife had to deal with it from a wife's perspective as well as a mother. My son was deployed. He is an MP. I think that the advantage that we have now more than ever is that Soldiers are so much in contact with their families back home.

They have so many different means to stay in contact with their family and in contact with their loved ones. You go back to just Desert Shield/ Desert Storm. The primary source of staying in contact with family and friends was the postal system. We had some phone systems that were available in the rear area but for the most part the Soldiers' best available means for communication was mail.

Look at how far technology has come just in the last fifteen to sixteen years. It's pretty amazing to see that between the internet plus cell phones and telephone technology all the things that have been made available for Soldiers that are deployed all over the world.

It makes it really easy to stay in contact with the family. I think that the most important way families and Soldiers deal with the separation is that constant contact and sharing of information.

Q: As a Reserve Component Soldier what needs to be done to ensure that we stay ready and relevant?

A: For all Soldiers out there across the board; Soldiers, first line leaders the fundamentals that keep a unit ready for deployment are the forty warrior tasks, and eleven battle drills.

So when the opportunity comes to train rather than going out and picking something off the cuff to go train on I always encourage Soldiers and their leaders to look back at the forty warrior tasks and eleven battle drills. They really serve as a foundation of knowledge and experience that makes units successful no matter where they are deployed in the world. That's the first piece.

The second piece is being deployable. It is making sure you as an individual and the Soldiers that you are responsible for are deployable. They are healthy, physically fit, ready to go, ready to get out the door when they are called on by the American people.

Q: You and General Schoomaker have been promoting the new Army safety program, how effective has that program been in reducing incidents?

A: If you look at the overall POV deaths they are down from where they were at last year. When you peel that back and you look at cars and then motorcycles, motorcycles deaths are way up compared to previously.

I think it's that more and more Soldiers out there are purchasing motorcycles. I think it's because of the increase in gas prices. This is driving more of your midgrade noncommissioned officers that have families to look for more economical ways of transportation. Because of that we have seen an increase of Soldier deaths.

Q: What would you have to say to the Soldiers of KFOR now or in the future?

A: KFOR7 Soldiers have done a magnificent job. They can be very, very proud of what they have accomplished. As they look back over their career whether five years from now, ten years from now, or thirty years from now I want them to be proud of what they accomplished through their deployment over here.

Be proud of what their contributions were for this mission. What they were able to do for the people of Kosovo as well as their contributions in the fight of the global war on terror.

Q: What advice might you have for the incoming Soldiers of KFOR 8?

A: I think they will have received great training they will have received all the feedback from the lessons that you've learned here during this rotation. I would tell them to focus on the left seat right seat ride, to really match up with their counterparts and learn all the TTPs (tactics techniques and procedures) are that going to be shared between the outgoing organization and the incoming organization.

With that stay focused on the mission. The successful units that have done well down here are disciplined units that empower noncommissioned officers and because they enforce standards they are inherently safe as well as being a disciplined force.





# *Guardian*

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